



**Transcript for the February 26, 2014, Webchat
U.S. Citizen Services**

Q: Hello, I was just wondering if there were any updates with regards to the ongoing reviews for UK police cautions? I have applied for a B2 non-immigrant visa to travel on a family holiday in May this year, I went for my interview in December last year and have still yet to hear anything, is there any news on this or updates? Thanks in advance.

A: U.S. Government policy regarding criminal cautions in the United Kingdom remains under review at this time. If you have been advised that further action in your visa application is awaiting the completion of the review, you will be contacted directly once the outcome is known.

Q: My old passport was handwritten and has since expired. My surname was spelt as Name1 <space> Name2 <space> Name3. My B1 visa was issued on the old passport with the two spaces in my surname. In my new machine readable passport, my surname is spelt as Name1 <space> Name2Name3 [without a space between Name2 and Name3]. Can I travel on my existing B1 visa carrying both the passports? Do I need to apply for new visa or for correction of my visa? Thanks

A: Please contact us via our webform at <http://dld.bz/visacontact> , stating your name as it displays in each passport, and clarifying whether or not each passport is of the same nationality. Please also briefly outline the activities that you wish to undertake while in the United States.

Q: Hi! I will be traveling to St. Martin from London, I have one stop in Miami, and return in New York . So how many times do I need to apply for C1 visa? And what I need to say on the application?

A: You may wish to consider applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa which allows individuals to apply for admission to the United States for transit as well as for tourism.

Information about the visa application process is available on our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> . We recommend that you refer in particular to the YouTube video for tips about completing the application Form DS-160.

Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa, including the terms and validity period of any visa issued, is a matter for the consular officer at the time of application. No assurances can be given in advance. We advise all applicants not to purchase tickets or make final travel plans unless they have received their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: hello my name is bharatkumar i am an indian and i am in the UK LAST 5 years on a student visa and now i need to visit USA SO CAN I APPLY FOR VISITOR VISA????

A: Anyone physically present in the United Kingdom at the time of application and issuance, regardless of their nationality or status, can apply for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa in the United Kingdom; either at the U.S. Embassy in London or the Consulate General in Belfast. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa is a matter for the consular officer at the



time of application. You may wish to review our blog post at <http://dld.bz/3rdcn> for more information.

Q: Hello, I am a American citizen i married a non american outside the us. I married according to my faith and religion. We have a marriage certificate from our religious church, which is not recognized by the uk government. How can i apply for my spouse or is there anyway that would be easier to apply for him?

A: Information on immigrant visas is available from our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visas.html>

Q: I am a free lancer artist based in London. I have agreed with a customer in USA to illustrate his house walls with painting of various subjects. The work will be done in London (on canvases) and me traveling a couple of times to USA to attach them on the walls. Can you please tell me what kind of visa I should apply for so to fulfill this art project?the client is willing to help but he doesnt' know how. Flrst time for me to deal with such a commission and any help would be much appreciated.Thank you.

A: We need to clarify a few points you have raised before providing guidance on the type of visa required. Please contact us via our webform at <http://dld.bz/visacontact> to discuss your purpose of travel in greater detail.

Q: I have a B1/B2 visa valid until October 2016. I travelled to the US in November last year and was given 10 days on B1 at point of entry. My flight got cancelled on the 10day by the airline so I in a hotel and left in the morning on day 11. I want to know if my visa is automatically cancelled because stay over a day. Do I need to apply for a new visa to be able to travel to the US in May?

A: If you have overstayed your authorized period of admission in the United States, even by one day, you should apply for a new visa if you wish to travel to the United States. Please see our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> for detailed information about the application process.

Q: Hello, I was just wondering if there was any updates regarding the us government review of UK police cautions, and their bearing on obtaining a non-immigrant visa? I went for my interview nearly 3 months ago and still havent heard anything. Is there any time frame on this or is it still being looked into? There must be quite a backlog of applicants waiting to hear now. Thanks in advance any information you can give would be greatly appreciated.

A: There is no set period of time that the review may take. Please check our answer to a question about cautions earlier in this webchat for more information.

Q: I have recently been refused an I-visa under section 214(b) as apparently it was not the correct visa, but I intend to re-apply. In the meantime, can I still travel to the US on an existing ESTA for business purposes that do not relate to the I-visa? I am due to represent my company at a conference in 9 days time and I want to be sure that the refusal under section 214(b) will not affect my ability to enter the US. All of my flights and hotels are booked, and my company is covering all costs.



A: Individuals that have been refused a visa under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not prohibited from travelling under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program, if they are otherwise eligible to do so. However, they are required to declare the refusal when they register under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html> for more information about the Visa Waiver Program.

Note, if you unsure whether your proposed activities in the United States are permissible under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program, we recommend you contact us via <http://dld.bz/nivfaq>

Q: Dear Sir, the 'Administrative Processing Status' shows my case has been processed on 18-Feb-14. Now it has been 9 days but I still haven't heard anything from the courier service. I am asking this because the website clearly states: 'Processed means The visa has been issued, or the case is closed and no action can be taken at this time. If the visa is issued, it will be returned within approximately 5 workdays by the Embassy's contract courier service.'

A: We cannot answer case-specific inquiries in this public forum. If you have questions after reviewing our website and online case status report at http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/administrative_processing.html , contact us directly through the website <http://dld.bz/nivfaq>

Q: Hi, I am passionate about going to the USA to work, i currently work as a warehouse person and have seen lots of jobs online, but they all say not open to none US citizens. I have looked at the requirements for Visas and know i have to be sponsored by a company, but i just wondered as i have no degree like qualifications what are my chances. I know on all the goverment websites they state that if there is an American to do my job then my visa application will get turned down. Does this happen often? What would be the easiest way i could get to work in the USA? Thanks

A: If you wish to reside in the United States indefinitely or permanently, you will require an immigrant visa. Please see our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visas.html> for more information. Please note that the Immigrant Visa Unit at the Embassy is not involved in the process until such time as they have received an approved petition in the visa applicant's name from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Therefore, if you have any further questions about the petition process, including eligibility, approximate timescales, where to file a petition, fees or completing the application form, you should contact USCIS directly.

Q: My son and I have a B2 visa to travel to USA for medical reasons. Our visa was issued for 10 years. I am my son's caregiver. When entering USA for the first time I was allowed to stay for 6 months. I stayed for almost all 6 months and then went back home. Three months have past since I left USA and now I have to go back to take care of my son again for about a month. Can I apply for the ESTA? I don't have time to ask for an extension, nor I know if I can do it from here?

A: Based on the information you have furnished, it appears that your visa is still valid; check the visa for details.

There is no set limit to the number of times the holder of a visa may travel to the United States and apply for admission and there is also no set period you are required to remain outside



before reapplying for admission. However, if there is a pattern of frequent travel or extended travel, the strength of your ties outside of the United States could be called into question. If immigration officers at the U.S. Port of Entry are not satisfied that a traveler is a bona fide visitor, they will be refused admission. A visa does not guarantee entry; however, a visa is strong evidence that the traveler's case has been extensively vetted by a Consular Officer overseas.

Q: I'm a UK citizen studying in Helsinki this semester, can I apply for a summer visa from Helsinki or does it need to be UK?

A: It is unclear what you mean by a 'summer visa.' If you wish to travel to the United States for tourism, you can check our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/vwp.html> to help you determine if you are eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program.

If you determine that you require a visa for your travel, you should visit the website of the Embassy in Helsinki for information about their visa application policies and procedures. Our blog post at <http://dld.bz/3rdcn> may also be of interest to you.

Q: I have lost my application ID number. Is there any way I can retrieve my application?

A: We advise all applicants to take note of their Form DS-160 application ID when they begin completing the form as it is not possible to retrieve the ID number at a later date. If you are unable to retrieve your application, you should complete a new Form DS-160. The new form will supersede the previous one. Ensure that you save your form frequently as you are completing it, and that you have access to a printer as you are required to print your DS-160 confirmation page and bring it to your visa interview. Check <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/ds160.html> for more information.

Q: How long is a visa valid for once I have been to the London Embassy for my interview?

A: Visas are issued based on reciprocity according to the nationality of the applicant; information about reciprocity is available on the Department of State's website at <http://dld.bz/reciprocity>. However, final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa, including the terms of that visa, is a matter for the consular officer following the visa interview.

Q: Hi, we recently moved house and sent an email with our change of address, however we never received a response. I'm concerned that my letter for my interview date will be sent to my previous address.

A: Correspondence submitted via our contact form is answered as soon as possible if the answer is not available via our website. If you submitted an inquiry more than five working days ago and you are concerned that it has not been received, you may resubmit via <http://dld.bz/visacontact>

Q: hi I was refused a US tourist visa on Pakistani passport with UK ILR. now I am a British citizen. do I qualify under VWP? or will I have to apply for a visa?

A: Individuals that have been refused a visa under either Section 214(b) or Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not prohibited from travelling under the terms of the Visa



Waiver Program, if they are otherwise eligible to do so. However, they are required to declare the refusal when they register under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html> for more information about the Visa Waiver Program. If you are not eligible to travel under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program you will require a B-2 (tourist) visa if you wish to visit the United States for purposes of tourism.

Q: Hi, I am having problems with the photo uploader. Are there any known issues on the website DS-160 application site?

A: If you experience technical problems when completing Form DS-160, we recommend that you make sure that you are using the most up-to-date version of your internet browser then, if the problems continue, try using an alternative browser or computer. We recommend that applicants complete the form using a desktop or laptop computer rather than a mobile device. If you continue to experience technical difficulties, please contact us via our contact form at <http://dld.bz/visacontact> with details.

Q: I am a mexican citizen with a tourist US visa still valid for 10 years. I will be spending some time at the US this summer doing some voluntary work for 4 months. Do i have to apply to a voluntary working visa, or can I use my tourist visa?

A: In order that we may best advise you, please contact us via our webform at <http://dld.bz/visacontact> to describe in more detail the activities that you would like to undertake while in the United States.

Q: Hi, my uncle (aunt's husband) has just passed away, I'd like my mom to visit my aunt (sisters). Mom holds an Iranian passport. What's the fastest process to obtain non-immigrant visa please?

A: Based on the information you have furnished, if your mother wishes to travel to the United States to visit family and attend a funeral or memorial, she should apply for a B-2 visa. Detailed information is available on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html> We recommend that you refer in particular to the YouTube video.

Q: hi,i m Mohammed from bangladesh ,i m here in the uk waiting for my visa and my passport from uk immigration. last year i married a USA citizen , she visits me often. On her last visit to the uk she got her passport taken in uk immigration. My question is can i get a visa from the u.k , while my application is pending in u.k home office? Also am i allowed to apply for the DS 160 from the u.k. What is the best option for me?

A: If you wish to apply for a nonimmigrant visa, detailed information about the application process is available on our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> However, please note that you will be required to present a valid passport or travel document on the day of the visa interview. Please see Step 5 of the aforementioned website for details.

Q: Hi. I am not sure which visa is suitable for me and whether I can apply for the visa waiver programme. I want to go to the US to work for a maximum of three months. I already have a job offer for a non profit organisation. Any advice is much appreciated. I have emailed the US embassy over 2 weeks ago and have had no reply.



A: Based on the information you have furnished, it appears that we have not received your correspondence. Please submit your inquiry via our contact form at <http://dld.bz/visacontact>

Q: Good Afternoon, I am interested in starting a small business in the US for which, I believe, I need an E2 Investor Treaty Visa. Do I need to get the visa first or do I need to set up the business in the US in advance of applying for the visa?

A: Please review our website at <http://dld.bz/nivselect> for detailed information about E-2 visas.

Q: I have applied for a tourist visa and have already had my interview (due to a caution) in which I was accepted but unfortunately my passport was declined due to poor condition. I have now got my new passport and urgently need the approval stamp as I am set to travel in 2 weeks, My questions are; can i use post office royal mail next day delivery at my own expense rather than DX courier as this is more convenient for me? And if so do I need to wait for the courier – in Authorization to be processed on the US embassy website and printed as i wouldnt be using the complimentary service?

A: If documentation has been requested from you in support of an ongoing visa application, please visit the Visa Appointment Service website at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-gb> for detailed information about the visa document courier services options available.

Q: Hi, my boyfriend has been down to the embassy and has just now got to do a medical. He wants a multi visa because we want to go on holiday this year and next year to america. this was not mentioned when he went for his interview. how do we know if he is going to get a multivisa or single visa as all he needs to do ks send his medical in.

A: The decision on the validity period of the visa will be made by the consular officer once the final review of your boyfriend's application has taken place.

I am presently in UK on Tier 2 long term visa & I need to travel to USA for 2 weeks for business meetings. Just want to know, Am I eligible to file the USA B1 visa from UK. If yes, what all the documents required & it will be great if you share me the link to fille the online application form & how to schedule the appointment for the same.

A: Detailed information about the visa application process in the United Kingdom is available on our website at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps> We recommend that you refer in particular to your YouTube video for tips to help with the application process.

Q: Thank you however the answer still unclear, can I apply for an ESTA to be on the safe side? There's is any problem in having both B1/B2 and ESTA while crossing the border?

A: Registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) is only for individuals that intend to travel visa free under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program. Therefore, if you have a valid visa, you should not register under ESTA.

Q: For the i-134, the US citizen is earning foreign income as they are living in the UK, can this be claimed or do we need a joint sponsor or claim the 3-5x assets test?



A: If you have a question about the Affidavit of Support required in support of an immigrant visa application, please see our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/i864.html>

Q: hi, I'm here in uk on a tier 2 general visa and I work. I would like to visit the states with my wife but I need to know the precise documents required and how to go about it. Do I need some invite from a family in the states?

A: Anyone physically present in the United Kingdom at the time of application and issuance, regardless of their nationality or status, can apply for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa in the United Kingdom; either at the U.S. Embassy in London or the Consulate General in Belfast. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa is a matter for the consular officer at the time of application. You may wish to review our blog post at <http://dld.bz/3rdcn> for more information.

Detailed information about the nonimmigrant visa application process is available at <http://dld.bz/nivsteps>. Please note, as it is each individual's responsibility to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the consular officer that they are eligible for the visa they apply for, it is not possible for others to make guarantees on their behalf. Furthermore, applying for a nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document based process.

Q: I'm given administrative processing 221(g) on 18th of October 2013, 120+ days after, I can't find the status in the PDF of the US Embassy London website, however in the CEAC.STATE.GOV site it shows 'Ready' but I don't have any email or call from embassy. Please can I get any guidance of what to do next?

A: If you were provided with a batch number and advised to check our website for updates to your application and the batch number is not yet showing, contact us through our website <http://dld.bz/visacontact>. You should not follow the progress of your application at CEAC.STATE.GOV as it will not reflect the true status of your case.

Q. Can I apply for a H4 Visa while my H1 Visa is in processing? If so, will H1 Visa processing be cancelled when I apply for H4?

A: The appropriate visa depends on your purpose of travel; if you are traveling to the United States as the spouse or child of an H-1B visa holder, you will require an H-4 visa. However, if you are traveling in order to work in a specialty occupation, you will require an H-1B visa.

Q: I posted a question on twitter as I couldnt seem to post on the blog, consequently due to character limit the question may need more clarification. Hence this further post: UK citizen, B2 multi-entry 10 year visa already obtained. Going to USA to walk the PCT from border with Mexico into Canada. I expect to cross into Canada 175 days after the initial arrival at Los Angeles airport. The crossing into Canada is not at a border post (the permit has been obtained already from Canada), so there will be no record of me leaving USA. I will be visiting relatives in Canada for approximately 20 days, before I want to transit back to LA airport for a flight to Fiji. I would prefer to do this by train (for tourism) rather than fly to LA from Vancouver. Are there likely to be any problems with this plan? Firstly the unrecorded land crossing, secondly when I try to reenter to transit I will have been in North America for 195 day, though less than 180 in USA. The same issue arises even if I fly to LA from Vancouver.



A: We recommend that you contact us via <http://dld.bz/visacontact> to discuss your purpose of travel, including whether you are undertaking the walk in conjunction with, or raising money for, a charitable organization.

Applying for a student (F-1) visa or exchange/intern (J-1) visa? Here are our top tips:

1. If you are married and/or have children under 21, they can apply for derivative F-2 or J-2 visas. However, boyfriends, girlfriends, common-law spouses and civil partners cannot qualify for derivative visas. If your partner wishes to accompany you, they can apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa. However, if they want to study or work in the U.S., they will need the appropriate visa for that purpose of travel.
2. Check out our video about completing your Form DS-160: <http://dld.bz/ds160video> If you are asked 'Have you attended any educational institutions at a secondary level or above?' remember to list any high schools, colleges and universities you have attended.
3. Make sure you bring the following documents to your visa interview: your original Form I-20 (for F-1 visa applicants) or Form DS-2019 (for J-1 visa applicants), your SEVIS fee receipt, your Form DS-160 confirmation page and your appointment instructions (generated once you have scheduled your visa interview appointment). See our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html> for full details.
4. If you have ever been arrested, convicted or cautioned, regardless of when or why, you are required to bring your UK Police Certificate and a completed Form VCU-01 to your visa interview. Visit <http://dld.bz/arrest> for more information.
5. We recommend that you apply as soon as you have received your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019) to allow plenty of time for visa processing. Although the average processing time is five working days, it can take several months or more in some cases.
6. If your interview is successful, your passport will be kept at the Embassy until processing is complete. Bear this in mind when scheduling your interview, especially if you have holiday plans.
7. We strongly recommend that you don't make final travel plans unless you have received your passport containing a valid visa.
8. If you receive a visa, you can travel up to 30 days before the start date on Form DS-2019 or the report date on Form I-20.
9. F-1 visa holders are permitted a grace period of up to 60 days after completion of their full course of study plus any periods of authorized practical training (duration of status).



J-1 visa holders are permitted a grace period of 30 days from the end date stated on Form DS-2019. The grace period is for travel in the U.S. and preparation for departure. If you leave the U.S. during the grace period, you cannot return using your J-1 or F-1 visa as it will no longer be valid; you will be required to reapply for admission under the Visa Waiver Program, if qualified, or apply for a B-2 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate outside the United States. You should be aware that the final determination on a person's eligibility for admission is made by the immigration official at the Port of Entry.